

SITUATION REPORT NO. 12
INCIDENT NO. 2004-021
DATE: June 4, 2004 Time: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Spring Flooding** induced by heavy rains on saturated ground.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: The State Water Commission (SWC) provided the following hydrological update:

Devils Lake Elevation as of 6/1/04	-	1,448.89
Area of lake	-	138,000 acres
Volume of lake	-	2.68 million acre feet
Stump Lake Elevation as of 6/1/04	-	1418.76
Area of lake	-	8,600 acres
Volume of lake	-	181,000 acre feet

Since late March, Devils Lake has risen almost 2.5 feet to its present level, which exceeds the most recent record high elevation of 1,448.01 feet which was reached in August of 2001. The 2.5 feet elevation increase is equivalent to a volume increase in Devils Lake of 330,000 acre-feet, the fourth largest volume increase on record. If Devils Lake reaches the 50 percent forecast level of 1,449.8 feet the volume increase this year would be 465,000 acre-feet, the largest on record.

Stump Lake has risen nearly four feet since the end of March and continues to rise as water from Devils Lake flows through the Jerusalem Channel. Presently, the rate of flow from Devils Lake to Stump Lake is 125 cubic feet per second (cfs).

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) officials for Barnes, Eddy, Foster, Nelson, Rolette, Steele and Towner Counties reported that the Memorial Day weekend rains will result in preventive planting of late seeded crops. Crops in many areas of the counties have been drowned. Saturated fields will make for difficult timely spraying of small grains and plant disease will be a concern if cool wet conditions persist.

The following is a continued summary of damages to counties impacted by the recent rainfall:

Burke County

Burke County has received approximately 12 to 14 inches of snow with a water content of about two inches during the month of May 2004. Since then, they have received anywhere from four to six inches of rain. This excessive moisture is causing major problems with county and township roads. Burke County officials report that county and township roads have become impassable due to the loss of gravel from the heavy snows last fall and during the month of May along with the excessive rains during May 2004. Emergency travel on county and township roads is nearly impossible. The cost of replacing the gravel that has been washed off of the roads exceeds Burke County resources.

Nelson County

The Nelson County Road Superintendent reported that all roads are open at this time. Many however are soft and slippery. There are three major county roads to Stump Lake that will go under if the lake continues to rise. State and federal officials are currently in the county inspecting county and township roads.

There have been few damage reports of water seepage in residential basements throughout the county due to the weekend rains. Numerous homes have sump pumps running. Nelson County has four homes that are threatened by the rising water.

Damages are expanding to an estimated \$500,000 to infrastructure, home, town and the Canadian-Pacific Railroad in the northern portion of the county.

The Tolna Coulee and the Jerusalem outlets have become clogged with debris and need to be cleaned out after the next crest.

Spirit Lake Nation

Tribal officials reported that flooding is causing homes and roads to sink due to saturated grounds.

Pembina County

Officials for the City of Drayton have cleaned two recreation areas along the Red River, Hastings Landing in the City of Drayton and the Drayton Dam. The areas have been cleared for fishing twice because of high water this spring, and the areas will have to be cleaned again after the next crest.

Pierce County

Pierce County has some road damage, but the majority of the damage is to the agricultural industry due to the rains received over Memorial Day weekend.

Ramsey County

Due to the rains received over Memorial Day weekend several home owners reported water problems (no accurate number available at this time). Shoreline problems continue with additional roads being inundated; Woods-Rutten Road is now impassable as of June 1.

Officials for the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board stated that the Morrison/Sweetwater Lakes reached a record high of almost 1,462 feet in late April of this year. The outlet structure was closed to hold the water to 1,459.5 feet on May 18, and will remain closed unless heavy summer rains force a draw down. The stop logs will be removed in late September early October.

Due to the lake elevations and excessive wind the roads in the area have sustained damages. Damage has occurred on N.D. Highway 19, N.D. Highway 20, N.D. Highway 57, U.S. Highway 2 and U.S. Highway 281.

The Shelters Grove State Recreation Area is closed for the season. Major flooding is occurring to the campsites, electric system, playground, and the campground entrance road. The office is located at 1,449.5 feet and the comfort station is 1,450 feet. Some flood damage has occurred at Grahams Island State Park to include: one lift station and dump station, and some erosion to one road located near the boat ramp. The majority of park facilities have been relocated above an elevation of 1,465 feet. The biggest concern is the Grahams Island Road. The current lake level has and will cause hazardous safety concerns during periods of strong winds. Visitors and residents on the island may not be able to travel to and from during those times. Emergency vehicles may also have difficulty traveling to and from the island. The Black Tiger Bay boat ramp and parking area was raised two feet this spring. The project is approximately 80 percent complete and is usable for the public at this time.

The recent heavy rain will necessitate additional work and money for maintaining access at Devils Lake this season. The Game and Fish Department will request an additional \$250,000 from the State Emergency Commission to maintain boat access at Devils Lake. East Bay, Minnewaukan, Black Tiger Bay and Six Mile Bay sites will require some work.

The Lake Region Human Service Center reported that there has been an increase in contacts from individuals reporting wet basements and inquiring about resources.

Renville County:

Excessive moisture has saturated township and county roads and has resulted in loss of graveled surfaces. Normal heavy transport activity has damaged road surfaces and initial estimates of repair place costs far in excess of the county budget.

Walsh County

The Holt Bridge located in Grafton Township in Walsh County at the junction of sections 3, 2, 10 and 11 has shifted. The Red River is causing some minor flooding, causing County Road 2 to close between sections 2 and 11 of Pulaski Township.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: On June 2, the World Church Service provided 75 clean up kits to New Rockford residents who reported water in their basements.

Red Cross clean-up kits have been distributed to Nelson County residents.

MAJOR ACTIONS: The following paragraphs are action item that were discussed at the June 2, State Flood Coordination Committee (SFCC) meeting:

As weather permits, contractors continue working on the Devils Lake Outlet with plans to have it operational by May 2005. There will be a total of 3.3 miles of pipeline and 9.4 miles of open channel in the project, which is expandable to a flow of 300 cubic feet per second (cfs).

There have been two appeals to the N.D. Department of Health's 402 Water Quality Discharge Permit filed in District Court. One was filed jointly by The People to Save the Sheyenne and the Province of Manitoba and the other by the Peterson Coulee Association. The hearing for the first appeal is currently scheduled for August 25.

Through the quick take process, the Water Commission has condemned seven landowners who refused to sign easements for the outlet. Of these seven, one has chosen to sign the easement.

State, local and federal officials are reorganizing the Devils Lake Interagency Task Force to address the rising water problems.

The State of North Dakota is in the process of conducting an environmental survey to look at moving U.S. Highway 281 to the west three miles by next year. N.D. Department of Transportation (NDDOT) and Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) officials identified roadways eligible under a waiver of emergency relief (ER) regulations. The waiver allows NDDOT to raise roads within three feet of inundation. The U.S. Highway 281 corridor is now eligible. The Governor advised the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to prioritize the roads acting as dikes. Officials for Benson County requested that the NDDOT prioritize two roads shared with Ramsey County: the Grahams Island Road and the Wood-Rutten Road. The Wood-Rutten Road could be elevated with emergency funds but the Grahams Island Road is not eligible. The FHWA determined the Grahams Island Road is not eligible for ER funding under this criteria because it is not a "critical" route. There is an appeal in to make the road an eligible road. The Grahams Island Road only goes to the Grahams Island and the Wood-Rutten Road goes all the way and continues to the north.

The Devils Lake level protection system is built to a level of 1,457 with a protection level of 1,450 (currently almost within one foot of protection level). A project to elevate the system three feet to 1,460 feet would cost an estimated \$8 to 10 million dollars.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) continues to work on public law 84-99 projects in the Devils Lake area (Woodland Resort Bank Erosion and Rural Utilities Project).

The Ramsey County rural buy out is complete except for final close outs.

BTR grain terminal demolition and site reclamation bids were opened, and contractors should start in June. This project will be completed this summer.

North Central Planning Council (NCPC) will be administering the federal portion of the funding for the Upper Basin Water Utilization Project through the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The project will be in full operation by late fall 2004 and run through at least 2006.

Emergency declarations have been issued by the boards of county commissions for Burke and eddy counties. The Renville County Commission issued a disaster declaration.

Ramsey County

Due to the flooding of houses and basements the city is having a special pick-up of damaged carpet.

6. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.
7. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
8. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director